

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF MIDWAY

THE RELIEF SOCIETY

The first organization of ladies in Midway was formed October 25, 1869 and was known as the Ladies' Industrial Society. Mary Jane Robey Epperson was the president, with Sarah Wood as first counselor and Mary Bonner, second counselor. This group became the first Relief Society organization on January 29, 1870, under the direction of Bishop Abram Hatch.

Chosen as president of the new Relief Society organization was Mary Jane R. Epperson. Counselors were Sarah H. Alexander and Julia Van Wagoner, with Mary Jane Coleman as secretary and Sarah Wood, treasurer. On April 10, 1870 Mrs. Epperson was released and Mary Bronson was sustained as president.

Between 1871 and 1876 the Relief Society was reorganized with Esther Dabling as president, Sarah Alexander, first counselor and Elizabeth Alexander, secretary-treasurer. These officers served until November 30, 1876 when Mary McOlney was sustained as president with Sarah Alexander and Maggie Cunningham as counselors and Mary Jane McCarrell, secretary and Cynthia Wootton, treasurer. New counselors were sustained on January 8, 1878, and were Charlotte Gurney and Mary Gerber, Matilda Jacobs was secretary.

Another reorganization was effected on November 27, 1879 when Charlotte Gurney became president, with Mary Gerber and Margaret Watkins as counselors and Mary Bronson, secretary. Sustained as new counselors on November 25, 1880 were Cynthia Wootton and Mary Ann Watkins. Mary Bronson was released as secretary in January, 1883, and Emily A. Gerber was appointed, with Lucretia H. Coleman, assistant secretary. Others who served as secretary or assistant secretaries until the reorganization in 1895 were Ella Hamilton, Elizabeth Wintch, Mary A. Watkins, Elinor Watkins and Martha Bronson.

The next reorganization took place on June 13, 1895 when Mary Ann Watkins was sustained as president. Cynthia Wootton became first counselor and Mary Jane McCarrell second counselor. Elizabeth Wintch was secretary and Martha A. Bronson, assistant secretary.

Shortly after this reorganization the Relief Society sisters were asked by Church leaders to direct a wheat storage program. At first the wheat came in by donations. Then the Relief Society began a system of loaning wheat in the spring to people who needed it for seed, and then receiving the wheat back in the fall with one peck per bushel as interest. This increased the storage program and made large quantities of wheat available when it was badly needed by the government during World War I. Midway Ward joined with Relief Society groups throughout the Church in turning over wheat to the United States for emergency use.

When Midway Ward was divided in February, 1903 it was decided

that temporarily the Relief Society organization would remain together. This continued until October 15 when separate presidencies were appointed in the two wards. Sustained as the first presidency in the Midway First Ward were Cynthia J. Wootton, president; Mary Jane McCarrell, first counselor; Phebe A. Bonner, second counselor; Eliza Bonner, secretary; Maggie J. Wilson, assistant secretary and Jane Johnston, treasurer.

Presidents of the First Ward Relief Society and the dates of their appointment are as follows: Emily Coleman, November 9, 1913; Mary A. Johnson, 1926; Celeste Van Wagoner, December 23, 1934; Jennie Pyper Johnson, June 4, 1944; Lorna Van Wagoner, August 23, 1953; Thelma Hair, January 8, 1956; Ardel Pugh, June 1960.

In the Midway Second Ward, Elizabeth Wintch was sustained as the first Relief Society President. Counselors were Mary M. Huber and Martha A. Bronson. Elinor Watkins was secretary and Mary M. Probst was treasurer.

Other presidents in Midway Second Ward and the dates of their appointment include Martha A. Bronson, 1909; Elizabeth R. Huntington, November 10, 1929; Ordena Orrock, October 1, 1935; Grace W. Sonderegger, September 13, 1936; Elizabeth Probst, August 27, 1944; Nettie S. Huber, September 4, 1949; Alice Galli Probst, September 7, 1958.

In addition to service and welfare work, the Relief Society members study lessons in theology, literature and sociology. They have regular work meetings and also enjoy music through a Singing Mothers' Chorus. They also have a monthly visiting program and in both Midway wards have been known for 100 per cent contact with their members each month.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The first organization of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Assn. in the Midway Ward took place about 1880. Adam Empey was called as the first superintendent, with David L. Van Wagoner and Attewall Wootton Jr. as counselors and Henry T. Coleman, secretary. They served until about 1893 when Isaac Jacobs was sustained as superintendent. Others who served as superintendents until the ward division were J. O. Probst; Attewall Wootton Jr., sustained January 12, 1896; Gottlieb Buhler, June 19, 1898; J. U. Probst, October 1, 1899 and George A. Huntington, January 3, 1902.

The first YMMIA Superintendency in the Midway First Ward was sustained May 24, 1903, with C. W. Smith as superintendent. Counselor was John Van Wagoner Jr., with Charles Bonner and later David F. Van Wagoner as secretaries and Clark Bronson, treasurer. Superintendents since that time have been Attewall Wootton Jr., October 22, 1905; John Van Wagoner Jr., August 19, 1906; John H. Buhler, November 16, 1913; William W. Wilson, December 28, 1913; George J. Wilson,